

determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Vincent Vigil is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Vincent Vigil for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I was absent on April 13, 2021. I designated Mr. GOSAR as my proxy. Mr. GOSAR attempted to proxy vote for me, but was advised by floor staff that he was not the proxy. Because of this misunderstanding, Mr. GOSAR did not proxy vote on my behalf. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 98.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF JOHN YOUNG

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of John Young, a remarkable community leader and activist who spent more than 30 years uplifting underserved communities in the North Bay Area.

John was born on October 25, 1952 in San Francisco, CA. He grew up in Marin City and attended Tamalpais High School and College of Marin. John went on to study public policy at San Francisco State University, where he developed a passion for social justice.

Recognizing the need to confront economic, health, and education inequities, John committed his career to championing more inclusive social policies. At the Marin City Community Development Corporation, John went to bat for the community that raised him, helping to plan and launch critical revitalization projects. The Canal Neighborhood in San Rafael benefitted from John's talents as an organizer and housing specialist for the Canal Community Alliance. John also successfully managed more than \$5 million in grants for programs supporting low economic and disadvantaged populations across the Bay Area.

John was a skilled problem solver who was able to effect change by bringing people together. In founding the Marin County Grassroots Leadership Network, he assembled a coalition for underrepresented residents to unite and speak with one voice. This helped secure more equitable policy outcomes, including housing, transportation, labor, and voting rights. In addition, more than 300 rising leaders were mentored and trained through the organization.

Friends, family, and colleagues knew John for his big personality that could brighten any room. With a deep sense of compassion and a people-first attitude, John embodied all the qualities of a fierce community organizer. Although he will be sorely missed, John's legacy will live on through the lasting positive impact he had on our community and beyond.

John's hard work made a transformative difference in the lives of many. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolence to John's family and friends and in expressing our deep appreciation for John's extraordinary career and life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ANNISTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Anniston High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team on their recent 4A state title.

The Anniston team beat Booker T. Washington-Tuskegee 54-52 in Birmingham at CrossPlex's Bill Harris Arena, clenching the state title.

This marks the school's first state title since 2009.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Anniston High School Boys Basketball Team. Congratulations to Coach Torry Brown and the Anniston High School staff and students. Go Bulldogs.

INSULAR AREA MEDICAID PARITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands Wage and Economic Stability Act. This legislation delays for 18 months, in the Marianas only, any national increase in the federal minimum wage that Congress may enact. My bill, also, requires a Government Accountability Office report on the economic impact in the Marianas of such a national wage increase.

Unlike the rest of our nation, where minimum wage has been static, the minimum wage in the Marianas has more than doubled over recent years to reach the federal level of \$7.25.

These substantial increases have made life better for thousands of Marianas families and encouraged more U.S. workers to enter the workforce.

But I had to carefully time those increases year-by-year with legislation and based on the help of Government Accountability Office reports to ensure—successfully—that wages went up without jeopardizing jobs.

Economic conditions in the Marianas remain separate from the national situation. Whereas Gross Domestic Product rose nationally in 2019, in the Marianas GDP plunged 11.2 per-

cent that year. That decline came after a 19.3 percent decrease in 2018. And it is reasonable to expect the picture in the Marianas for 2020 will be no better. Our tourism-based economy will remain dormant until the pandemic has passed. Meanwhile, nationally, we expect growth on the order of 6 percent this year.

My point is simply this: If we are going to raise the wage in the Marianas—and, believe me, I do—then we must do it as we did before: with a close eye on the economic conditions in the islands. They are vastly different than conditions in the nation as a whole.

Again, I fully support raising the minimum wage in our country. It has been static too long. I am a cosponsor of the Raise the Wage Act—I want workers to earn more.

I believe the best way to accomplish that goal in the insular area I represent, however, is through my legislation, the Northern Mariana Islands Wage and Economic Stability Act. My bill will give Congress the analytical tools and the time to consider how best to schedule wage increases in the Marianas to improve the lives of workers and their families, while ensuring the businesses employing those workers can thrive.

TREY BELLAMY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Trey Bellamy for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Trey Bellamy is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Trey Bellamy is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Trey Bellamy for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

JOHN LEWIS NIMHD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 189, the John Lewis NIMHD Research Endowment Revitalization Act of 2021, which expands eligibility for research endowments available through the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to include former centers of excellence at health professional schools and biomedical and behavioral research institutions

that meet criteria related to the inclusion of underrepresented minority individuals in programs and activities.

NIMHD leads scientific research to improve minority health and eliminate health disparities by researching and evaluating all minority health and health disparities research at NIH.

The NIMHD's Centers of Excellence (COE)'s program fosters collaborative research in minority health and health disparities, and awards grants to institutions that have a specific unifying focus on addressing minority health and health disparities.

NIMHD Centers of Excellence program grants are awarded in order to:

Support innovative multi- and trans-disciplinary research to promote minority health and reduce health disparities;

Strengthen exemplary research training and education activities support the development of well-trained researchers from minority and health disparity populations;

Increase the number of individuals from minority and other health disparity populations participating in research activities; and

Provide support for engaging minority and other health disparity communities in effective and sustainable activities aimed at improving the health of their communities.

Racial health inequalities in the U.S. is the cumulative result of both past and present discrimination throughout U.S. culture, and the NIMHD centers of racial excellence program grants are essential to addressing these inequalities.

African Americans are not only more susceptible to disease and illness, they are also more likely to die from them.

This past year, as COVID-19 has ravaged African Americans and communities of color, we have seen firsthand the fruits of these inequalities.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), African Americans face increased risks if they are stricken with COVID-19, including asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and pulmonary illness.

African American lives are placed at greater risk because of a health care system that denies access to the poor and work conditions that have long neglected conditions that leave them with a higher incidence of diseases that for far too long have gone under diagnosed and untreated.

There are many reasons for this but they include the refusal of several states to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act; the resistance of small business employers to provide health care to workers until required by their state government to do so, and too little access to medical doctors who are trained to provide care to this COVID-19 at-risk population.

Since 2003, I have been working on major legislation to address the problem with several of my colleagues including Representatives Elijah E. Cummings, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Delegate Donna Christensen, Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust, U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, and the leadership of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the Native American Caucus.

Together we produced, the "Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2003," a truly comprehensive bill designed to address the disparities that face our communities.

During my time in office, I have fully and eagerly supported all legislation that has given increased attention to HIV/AIDS, including the Ryan White CARE Act, which is currently slated to receive about \$2.2 billion in funding for FY2007.

I have supported legislation to reauthorize funding for community health centers (H.R. 5573, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006), including the Montrose and Fourth Ward clinics in my home city of Houston, as well as supported legislation to provide more nurses for the poor urban communities in which many of these centers are located (H.R. 1285, Nursing Relief Act for Disadvantaged Areas).

I have also supported and introduced legislation aimed to better educate our children (H.R. 2553, Responsible Education About Life Act in 2006) and eliminate health disparities (H.R. 3561, Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act and the Good Medicine Cultural Competency Act in 2003, H.R. 90).

Mr. Speaker, we need strong collaborations and research based upon asking the right questions in specific areas, and the COEs are poised to emphasize scientific inquiry that will promote health equity.

Government has an obligation to seek the best for our nation's people, especially our nation's children.

I urge all members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 189, the John Lewis NIMHD Research Endowment Revitalization Act of 2021, because improved public health benefits all Americans, no matter who they are or where they are from.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I was detained during the vote series on April 14, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. S. 578.

PROTECTING INDIAN TRIBES FROM SCAMS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1762, the "Protecting Indian Tribes from Scams Act," which requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), after consultation with Indian tribes, to report on unfair or deceptive practices that target tribes or tribal members.

The FTC must submit the report to Congress and make it publicly available.

The FTC is directed to update its website to include information for consumers and businesses on identifying and avoiding unfair or deceptive practices that target tribes or tribal members.

Scammers are targeting Native people.

Scammers may say extra money is waiting for a small price upfront or that a testing kit or treatment for the coronavirus is available for a fee.

Other scams attempt to benefit from the \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment coming to most U.S. citizens; and more are expected to target stimulus checks authorized under the America Rescue Plan.

At least one tribal leader has warned tribal citizens of an email scam related to the coronavirus.

In an April 14 Facebook post, Ojibwe Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin wrote that an email purporting to be her had tribal citizens to purchase gift cards to help a citizen who tested positive for the coronavirus.

Benjamin asks those that may have received the scam email from a Gmail account to contact tribal police.

This bill will help protect our diverse Native American communities from scammers by providing valuable information that will help identify fraudsters and arm people with tools to protect themselves.

Our friends in the Native American communities across the nation have faced tremendous challenges during COVID-19 and they need our help to keep their nation's physically and financial safe during COVID.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

HOUSE RESOURCES REPUBLICAN FORUM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, it is a unique responsibility to be the sole Congressman for Alaska in the House of Representatives.

It's easy for legislators to forget that life is different in Alaska, and it is my highest priority to ensure that Alaskans are not overlooked here in Washington, D.C.

One of the principal lessons I have learned in my years of service are the check and balances between the three branches of government inscribed by our Founding Fathers in our Constitution.

While the President of the United States governs the Executive Branch, Congress writes our laws and that's something we too often forget here.

Article I of the Constitution states: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

That said the President can only enforce legislation that Congress has drafted and approved.

The real power of this country lies within this Capitol building and we need to act like it.

For over 48 years I have worked tirelessly to address the crucial infrastructure and energy needs throughout Alaska.

Before being elected to public office, I saw firsthand Alaska's lack of traditional infrastructure while I was a tug and barge operator along the Yukon River.

But I could also see the potential economic development that communities and rural villages could achieve if they were given the resources to put ideas into action.

It is that driving knowledge that guides me as I work to support federal investment in Alaska's energy infrastructure.